

FOR FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE OF BYELORUSSIA

NEW YORK 1960

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BYELORUSSIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD

Before our very eyes dozens of Asian and African nations are achieving their freedom and national independence. Old colonial empires are in fast transition to a modern commonwealth of free nations. At the same time red Russian Moscow is still keeping in its brutal grip, and in colonial slavery, dozens of Asian and European peoples, attempting to russify them, decimate, destroy and finaly wipe them off the map of Soviet empire as national entities.

Everyone remembers how deep the conscience of free men was shaken when the people of Ungarn and Tibet rose in a dramatic fight against slavery and in the defense of their national freedom and human dignity. Unfortunatly much less is known today in the free World about the permanent heroic struggle for survival and existence by many other peoples already enslaved for decades by red Russian imperialism.

An example is Byelorussia. As the soviet census of 1959 reveals, in the past 20 years, the Byelorussian Republic, B.S.S.R. has lost nearly 6 million of its expected population. Only 2 million of this deficit is due to the war losses. The other 4 million is due to mass exterminations, deportations and forcible ressettlements of Byelorussian people in Stalin's and Khrushchev's time. In 1939 there was in B.S.S.R. a population of 9.3 million. Now in the same territory we find 8 million only. It means 1.3 million of the 1939 population and in addition all the expected natural increase in the 20 years following is gone under the red Russian terror.

This shocking fact of the mass genocidal destruction of a defenseless people is seldom, if at all, noted in the press of the free World. Nobody raises this question in the United Nations with its international Convention on Genocide either.

This publication therefore, focuses its attention on the struggle for the national freedom of one people of the Soviet empire, Byelorussia. Its general purpose is to serve the cause of freedom of all enslaved.

DOCUMENTS

CAPTIVE NATIONS WEEK

by the President of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Many nations throughout the world have been made captive by the imperialistic and aggressive policies of Soviet Communism; and

WHEREAS, The peoples of the Soviet-dominated nations have been deprived of their national independence and their individual liberties; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of the United States are linked by bonds of family and principles to those who love freedom and justice on every continent; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate and proper to manifest to the peoples of the captive nations the support of the government and the people of the United States of America for their just aspirations for freedom and national independence; and

WHEREAS, By a joint resolution approved July 17, 1959, the Congress has authorized and requested the President of the United States of America to issue a Proclamation designating the third week in July 1959 as "Captive Nations Week" and to issue a similar proclamation each year until such time as freedom and independence shall have been achieved for all the captive nations of the world:

Now, therefore, I, Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the week beginning July 19, 1959, as Captive Nations Week.

I invite the people of the United States of America to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies and activities and I urge them to study the plight of the Soviet-dominated nations and to recommit themselves to the support of the just aspirations of the peoples of those captive nations.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this 17th day of July in the year of our Lord 1959 and of the Independence of the United States of America the 184th.

(signed) D. D. EISENHOWER

JOINT RESOLUTION

Providing for the designation of the third week of July as "Captive Nations Week"

WHEREAS, The greatness of the United States is in large part attributable to its having been able, through the democratic process, to achieve a harmonious national unity of its people, even though they stem from the most diverse of racial, religious, and ethnic backrounds; and

WHEREAS, This harmonious unification of the diverse elements of our free soceity has led the people of the United States to possess a warm understanding and sympathy for the aspirations of peoples everywhere and to recognize the natural interdependency of the peoples and nations of the world; and

WHEREAS, The enslavement of a substantial part of the world's population by Communist imperialism makes a mockery of the idea of peaceful coexistence between nations and constitutes a detriment to the natural bonds of understanding between the people of the United States and other peoples; and

WHEREAS, Since 1918 the imperialistic and aggressive policies of Russian Communism have resulted in the creation of a vast empire which poses a dire threat to the security of the United States and of all free peoples of the world; and

WHEREAS, The imperialistic policies of Communist Russia have led, through direct and indirect aggression, to the subjugation of the national independence of Poland, Hungary, Lithuania, Ukraine, Czechoslovakia, Latvia, Estonia, White Ruthenia, Rumania, East Germany, Bulgaria, mainland China, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, North Korea, Albania, Idel-Ural, Tibet, Cossakia, Turkestan, North Vietnam, and others; and

WHEREAS, It is vital to the national security of the United States that citadel of human freedom, for leadership in bringing about their liberation and independence and in restoring to them the enjoyment of their Christian, Jewish, Moslem, Buddhist, or religious freedoms, and of their individual liberties; and

WHEREAS, It is vital to the national security of the United States that the desire for liberty and independence on the part of the peoples of these conquered nations should be steadfastly kept alive; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that we clearly manifest to such peoples through an appropriate and official means the historic fact that the people of the United States share with them their aspirations for the recovery of their freedom and independence: Now, threfore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President is authorized and requested to issue a Proclamation designating the third week of July 1959 as "Captive Nations Week" and inviting the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies and activities. The President is further authorized and requested to issue a similar proclamation each year until such time as freedom and independence shall have been achieved for all the captive nations of the world.



Meeting of the Government (Secretariate) of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic on June 17, 1918. The meeting was called on the occasion of arrival of Mr. A. SVIKEVIC from Kiev. Right to left: PIOTRA KRECEUSKI, Secretary of Commerce and Industry; VASIL ZACHARKA, Secretary of Finances; JAZEP VARONKA, Chairman of the Council and Secretary of Foreign Affairs; ALEKSANDER CVIKIEVIC, Chairman of the Byelorussian Mission to Kiev; JAZEP LOSIK, editor of the periodical "Free Byelorussia"; IVAN SIERADA, Secretary of Agriculture; ARKADZ SMOLIC, Secretary of Education. Standing: A. Ausianik, Sekretary without portfolio.

"Varta" No. 1, Miensk 1918.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic

March 25th, 1918.

One year ago the peoples of Byelorussia, jointly with the peoples of Russia, cast away the yoke of the Russian monarchy which was oppressing Byelorussia most of all. Without consulting the people, the Czar had involved our country in the tragedy of war, which razed to the ground Byelorussian towns and villages. Now we, the Rada of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic, are liberating our country for the last vestige of state dependency imposed by the Russian monarchy upon our free and independent country.

From now on, the Byelorussian Democratic Republic is proclaimed a free and independent state. The peoples of Byelorussia through their elected Constituent Assembly shall themselves determine the future relations of Byelorussia with other states.

This present act nullifies all previous state relationships which gave a foreign government the power to sign the treaty in Brest also on behalf of Byelorussia; the treaty that spells death for the Byelorussian people and cuts their country into pieces. On the basis of this present act the Government of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic shall approach the interested parties and propose the revision of that part of the Brest treaty which concerns Byelorussia and the conclusion of the peace treaty with all belligerent states.

The Byelorussian Democratic Republic shall embrace the whole territory inhabited by Byelorussian people as a majority and namely it should include the governorships of Miensk, Vilnia, Horadzien, Viciebsk, Smalensk, Čarnihau and adjacent parts of districts inhabited by Byelorussians.

The Rada of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic confirms all those rights and civic liberties which were granted by the act of March 9, 1918. Proclaiming the independence of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic, its Rada hopes that all freedom-loving nations will render assistance to the Byelorussian people in their endeavor to secure full realization of their political ideals of statehood.

March 25, 1918, in Miensk.

RADA OF THE BYELORUSSIAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC



The representatives of Byelorussians in the U.S.A. were received by Vice President RICHARD M. NIXON in his office at the Capitol, Washington D. C., on March 24, 1958 to mark the fortieth anniversary of Byelorussian independence. Left to Vice President — Archbishop VASILI of the Byelorussian Autocephalic Orthodox Church and Mr. CONSTANT MIERLAK, President of the Byelorussian-American Association. Right to Vice President — Senator IRVING M. IVES and Rev. FREDERIC BROWN HARRIS, D. D. Chaplain of the U.S. Senate.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

The Assistant to the President

March 15, 1958

Dear Mr. Mierlak:

The President has asked me to convey to you and to the members and friends of the Byelorussian-American Association his greetings and good wishes for the success of your convocation.

The enterprising spirit and many skills of our citizens of Byelorussian origin have made a substantial contribution to the greatness of our country.

Although your celebration this year is being held in a period of peace, it is necessary to be ever on guard to the dangers that threaten the peace in today's anxious world. In the effort to keep our country strong and prepared, we know our citizens of Byelorussian origin are doing their characteristically loyal share.

Sincerely,

SHERMAN ADAMS

Mr. Konstanty Mierlak, President
Byelorussian-American Association, Inc.
33 Norfolk Street
New York 2, New York

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PROCLAMATIONS

PROCLAMATION

STATE OF NEW YORK

Executive Chamber

On March 25, 1918, the Council of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic proclaimed its independence. I am happy to issue a proclamation calling attention to the anniversary of that date.

The people of Byelorussia, from the oldest time, had aspirations for freedom. Twice they enjoyed brief periods of independence, twice they were overrun by hostile forces.

In our midst, we have many well-liked neighbors of Byelorussian descent. They are true American citizens, sharing our ideals of liberty and equality of opportunity for all. Their industry and intelligence have contributed to American progress.

We sympathize with their wish to commemorate the independence of Byelorussia.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nelson A. Rockefeller, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim March 25, 1959, as

BYELORUSSIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

in New York State, and I urge the people of the State of New York to cooperate in observing this occasion.

GIVEN under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this sixteenth day of March in the year of our Lolrd one thousand nine hundred and fifty-nine.

(seal)

By the Governor:
(Signed) William J. Ronan
Secretary to the Governor

(Signed) Nelson A. Roskefeller

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF NEW YORK

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: MARCH 25, 1959, WILL MARK THE FORTHY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE BYELORUSSIAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND THOSE OF BYELORUSSIAN DESCENT ALL OVER THE FREE WORLD, WILL CELEBRATE THIS DATE AS A MEMORIAL TO A ONCE FREE NATION; AND

WHEREAS: THE DESIRE FOR FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY, AND RESISTANCE TO TOTALITARIANISM STILL LIVES IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE OF BYELORUSSIA; AND

WHEREAS: AMERICAN CITIZENS OF BYELORUSSIAN DESCENT, WHO ENJOY THE PRIVILEGES OF THE GREAT AMERICAN NATION, WHILE STRIVING FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE ENSLAVED PEOPLE IN BYELORUSSIA, WILL ESPECIALLY COMMEMORATE THE DAY DEDICATED TO THE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY OF BYELORUSSIA,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROBERT F. WAGNER, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1959, AS

BYELORUSSIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

IN NEW YORK CITY, AND CALL UPON ALL OUR CITIZENS TO JOIN WITH THOSE OF BYELORUSSIAN DESCENT IN PRAYERS FOR PEACE, FREEDOM, AND JUSTICE, IN THE ENTIRE WORLD.

(seal)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK TO BE AFFIXED THIS 24TH DAY OF MARCH, 1959.

ROBERT F. WAGNER
Mayor, the City of New York

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Office of the Governor

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on the 25th day of March, 1918, Byelorussia was proclaimed by its democratically elected National Assembly as a free and independent republic; and

WHEREAS, despite the fact that this republic fell under the conquest by force of arms of the Russian imperialistic Communists, the resistance of the Byelorussian people to this foreign communist totalitarian regime never ceased and millions of Byelorussian patriots are still hoping to regain national independence and democracy for their homeland; and

WHEREAS, the resistance of the Byelorussian people to Soviet-Russian rule and to the godless communist system is an inspiration to lovers of freedom and democracy everywhere and a constant source of embarrassment to their oppressors, and deserves the sympathy and moral and material support of the entire free world; and

WHEREAS, thousands of American citizens of Byelorussian birth or ancestry, now residing in New Jersey, are commemorating the 41st anniversary of the proclamation of the independence of the Byelorussian National Republic;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROBERT B. MEYNER, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1959

AS

BYELORUSSIAN DAY

in the State of New Jersey, and request the appropriate observance of the occasion.

(seal)

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this thirteenth day of March in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and fifty-nine, and in the Independence of the United States the one hundred and eighty-third.

By the Governor:
(s) Edward J. Paten
Secretary of State

(s) Robert B. Meyner
Governor

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND & PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

PROVIDENCE

PROCLAMATION

BYELORUSSIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

BY DENNIS J. ROBERTS

Governor

March 25, 1958, will mark the fortieth anniversary of the proclamation of a free and independent Byelorussian Democratic Republic, those of Byelorussian origin all over the world, will celebrate this date as a memorial to once free people.

The love of freedom and democracy still lives in the hearts of the men and women of the Byelorussia despite communistic oppression, their matchless faith and courage will always defeat the aggressor seeking their ultimate enslavement.

Our citizens of Byelorussian origin who enjoy the privileges of our nation, while striving for the ultimate liberation of the enslaved people in the homeland, will especially commemorate the day dedicated to Byelorussian democracy and freedom; NOW, THEREFORE, DO I, DENNIS J. ROBERTS, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS, PROCLAIM

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1958, AS

BYELORUSSIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY,

assuring our citizens that this celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic will be heartily appreciated by Americans of Byelorussian descent in the United States.

(seal)

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the State to be affixed this 14th day of March, in the year of Our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-eight and of Independence, the one hundred and eighty-second.

John A. Motte Jr.
Secretary of State

Dennis J. Roberts
Governor

THE STATE OF MARYLAND

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION

BYELORUSSIAN DAY

MARCH 25, 1958

March 25, 1958 will mark the fortieth anniversary of the proclamation of a free and independent Byelorussian Democratic Republic.

People of Byelorussian origin all over the world, will celebrate this date as a memorial to once free people.

The love of freedom and democracy still lives in the hearts of the men and women of the Byelorussia despite the Communistic oppression.

Their faith and courage will eventually defeat the aggressor, and the brave land will take its place among the free Nations of the Earth.

Our citizens of Byelorussian origin, while striving for the ultimate liberation of the enslaved people in the homeland, will especially commemorate the day dedicated to Byelorussian democracy and freedom.

THEREFORE, I, THEODORE R. McKELDIN, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, by virtue of the power vested in me, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, March 25, 1958 as Byelorussian Day in Maryland.

(seal)

GIVEN Under My Hand and The Great Seal of the State of Maryland at the City of Annapolis this 14th day of March, in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Fifty-Eight.

By the Governor
Claude B. Hellmann
Secretary of State

Theodore R. McKeldin

STATE OF OHIO

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Office of the Governor

COLUMBUS

PROCLAMATION

BYELORUSSIAN DAY

MARCH 29, 1959

WHEREAS, the Byelorussian people all over the world and American people of Byelorussian origin in Ohio will celebrate the 41st anniversary of the independence of Byelorussia on March 29, 1959; and

WHEREAS, Americans of Byelorussian descent are observing this date by reasserting their belief in freedom for all people and reaffirming their conviction that tyranny and despotism cannot long prevail where man so believes; and

WHEREAS, it is universally recognized that the resistance of the brave and patriotic Byelorussian people to communistic totalitarianism has never waned,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael V. DiSalle, Governor of the State of Ohio, do herely proclaim Sunday, March 29, 1959 as BYELORUSSIAN DAY in Ohio, and urge all the citizens of this State to join with those of Byelorussian descent in appropriately and suitably noting this date and the great significance which it has, especially for the Byelorussian people.

(seal)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of the State of Ohio to be affixed at Columbus, this 26th day of March, in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Nine.

Michael V. DiSalle
Governor

STATE OF MICHIGAN

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, LANSING

PROCLAMATION

BYELORUSSIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Forty years ago, on March 25, 1918, a free and independent Byelorussian National Republic was born. Since then people of Byelorussian heritage around the world have set aside this day each year to commemorate this historic occasion.

Several times in history the people of Byelorussia — or White Russia — have given dramatic meaning to the principle of selfrule. In 1812 and again in 1863 the Byelorussians courageously sought to achieve their dream of freedom. Their adherence to independence and liberty has been a shining example of the indominable will to freedom for oppressed people the world over.

The people of Byelorussia finally were successful in establishing a new nation when in 1918 the National Republic was proclaimed. This freedom was shortlived, however, for the young republic was crushed by the Soviet Red Army and was dismembered in 1921 despite the gallant resistance of the people.

Byelorussian freedom, however brief, continues to fire the imagination and dreams of Byelorussians, their descendents and friends everywhere. It is entirely fitting that in America, the cradle of modern freedom, the anniversary of Byelorussian Independence be observed by all Americans regardless of their national origins. This recognition of the aspirations of Byelorussians in this country and their brethren behind the Iron Curtain who carry on the struggle to liberate their people from communist enslavement is consonant with our high ideals of human dignity and liberty.

THEREFORE, I, G. Mennen Williams, Governor of the State of Michigan, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, March 25, 1958 as

BYELORUSSIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

in Michigan, and urge all our citizens to pay homage to the brave people both in America and in the mother country who continue the struggle for restoration of freedom in this enslaved land.

(seal)

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Michigan, this Twentieth Day of March, in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-eight, and of the Commonwealth the One Hundred Twenty-second.

By the Governor:
Signature
Secretary of State

G. Mennem Williams
Governor

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTAMENT

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The fortieth anniversary of the proclamation by its National Assembly of the Byelorussian National Republic as a free and independent state occurs on March 25, 1958, and

WHEREAS, Officers and members of the Byelorussian Association in the State of Illinois will observe the anniversary as a time for reviving and demonstrating the hope for freedom which the Byelorussian people still cherish in their occupied homeland, and

WHEREAS, To accord official recognition to this well remembered anniversary seems fitting and proper,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William G. Stratton, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, March 25, of the present year, as BYELORUSSIAN DAY throughout Illinois, and request the appropriate observance of the occasion.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

(seal)

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield, this 18th day of March, in the Year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and Fifty-eight, and of the State of Illinois the one hundred and Fortieth.

By the Governor:
Charles F. Carpentier
Secretary of State

William G. Stratton
Governor

(seal)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

SACRAMENTO

On behalf of the people of California, I extend to the members of the Byelorussian-American community in Los Angeles warm greetings and congratulations on the 41st anniversary of the declaration of independence by the Byelorussian National Republic.

With atheistic Communism everywhere a threat to the freedom of mankind, the struggle for independence being waged by the Byelorussian people is an inspiration to all who fight for a free world.

The Byelorussian people deserve the highest commendation for their long struggle, and I salute them on the observance of this memorable occasion.

Edmund G. Brown
Governor of California

Sacramento, March 20, 1959

IN THE UNITED STATE SENATE

PRAYER

BY THE MOST REVEREND ARCHBISHOP VASILI, OF THE BYELORUSSIAN AUTOCEPHALIC ORTHODOX CHURCH, NEW YORK, IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE IN WASHINGTON ON MARCH 24, 1958.

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST. ALMIGHTY GOD, THIS PRAYER WE MAKE TO THEE ON THIS ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE OF BYELORUSSIA, WHOSE FREEDOM WAS MERCILESSLY SUPPRESSED WITH BRUTE, GODLESS FORCE, WHOSE MILLIONS OF MARTYRS BEFORE THY THRONE CRY TO THEE: EXERCISE THY JUSTICE, O LORD; RESTORE FREEDOM TO THE ENSLAVED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD.

IN THIS SOLEMN MOMENT WE BEG THEE, OUR GOD AND FATHER, BE GRACIOUS UNTO US. THY MERCY, LORD, IS IN THE HEAVENS AND THY TRUTH REACHETH UNTO THE CLOUDS, FOR THOU ART GREAT AND DOEST WONDROUS THINGS.

MERCIFUL FATHER, THOU HAST BLESSED THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY AND HELPED THEM TO ESTABLISH A GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, AND FOR THE PEOPLE. ETERNAL GOD, BLESS THE LEADERS OF THIS COUNTRY WITH THY GRACE. HELP THEM AS THEY STRIVE FOR THY TRUTH AND AS THEY STRIVE FOR WORLD LIBERTY, SO THAT ALL MEN, THY CHILDREN, MAY GLORIFY THEE IN THEIR FREE COUNTRIES.

WE HUMBLY IMPLORE THEE, OUR GOD AND REDEEMER, ACCEPT THIS OUR PRAYER: BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND BYELORUSSIA.

MAY THY GLORIOUS NAME, OUR GOD AND FATHER, REIGN AND SHINE IN OUR HEARTS AND BE BLESSED NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN.

HON. KENNETH B. KEATING

OF NEW YORK

Mr. President, the pursuit of freedom has generated great conflicts among peoples and nations. But self-determination remains the dream of men everywhere. Acceptance of anything less means encroachment of a philosophy and system which submerges national expression. This can only result in the elimination of human dignity and the rights

of man.

Few people are more aware of this than the Byelorussians, or White Russians as they have become known to us. For centuries the Byelorussians have been denied control of their own destiny. Here are a people, 15 million of them, in the area east of the old Polish border and west of Moscow, constituting a distinct national entity, united by cultural traditions, a common language, and a history of struggle, who repeatedly have been denied freedom. History reveals their plight...

...This earliest victim of Soviet aggression knows well the vicious and atrocious methods of the Communists. National independence has been denied. Her people have been dispersed. Attempts to assert freedom have met with brutal retaliation. An entire nation has been subjugated and made destitute, and her helpless people forced to bear witness to the mutation of their way of life.

Mr. President, Byelorussians are not allowed to celebrate their independence day. But, today, we along with many others, pause and pay tribute to this determined and courageous people. America stands before the entire world as the embodiment of the continued realization of freedom and independence. We, and the rest of the free world, must offer hope and extend encouragement to the valiant Byelorussians. We must work and pray for the day when these brave people will be able to practice openly the concept of liberty, free from the fear of oppression and tyranny. Until that great day, no true lover of freedom can rest.

Congressional Record, Vol. 105, No. 49, p. 4633

HON. JACOB K. JAVITS

OF NEW YORK

Mr. President, today, March 25, marks the 41st anniversary of the proclamation of independence of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic in 1918. This independent state was relatively short lived, as it was partitioned between Poland and Russia by the Riga Treaty in 1921...

...On the anniversary of the declaration of Byelorussian independence we recall again the continuing valiant struggle of enslaved peoples behind the Iron Curtain. This struggle for independence stands as a tribute to all who believe in the principles of freedom and individual dignity, and reminds us again of the suppressed people denied their freedom who are behind the Iron Curtain.

Congressional Record, Vol. 105, No. 49, p. 4634

HON. FRANK J. LAUSCHE

OF OHIO

Mr. President, March 25 marks the 41st anniversary of National Independence Day by the Byelorussian peoples, and although at the present time these people are the slaves of their Communist leaders, and will have little opportunity to express their national traditional love of liberty and freedom, it is essential that those of us in the free world remember and honor the peoples of this captured nation.

A struggle for freedom has been an essential part of Byelorussian history since 1795, when Byelorussia was, by force of arms, conquered and annexed to Russia. In 1831, and again in 1863-64, the Byelorussians revolted against Russian colonialism, but each time were subdued by the Russian oppressors.

However, in 1917, when the Russian Empire collapsed, a Byelorussian Republic was formed, and endured until August of 1920, when it was occupied by Soviet forces.

Today the present Byelorussian Soviet Socialistic Republic, which has been accorded membership in the United Nations, retains only a fiction of sovereignty. Actually, the Byelorussians still remain slaves to the fearful colonial Communist Russian regime. Today, the peoples of this unhappy land suffer mass forced labor, chronic famine, and religious and cultural persecution. Mass arrests and deportations to Siberia all are indicative of their present lack of freedom.

In these days of Byelorussian trial and trouble, we can but extend our sympathy and good wishes to those Byelorussians who still hope for a republic truly free and democratic. Surely, in divine providence, the time will come when the Byelorussian dream of national independence will be realized. Until that day comes, Americans will continue to hope and pray with their brother seekers of truth and freedom.

Congressonal Record, Vol. 105, No. 49, p. 4633

HON. EVERETT M. DIRKSEN

OF ILLINOIS

Mr. President, on the 25th of March 1918, there came into being a free republic known as the Byelorussian National Republic. Its life was very, very short indeed. It was then consolidated and incorporated in the Soviet Union.

The arrival of March 25 each year does call attention to and does bring to mind the rich contributions which the citizens of Byelorussian descent in this country have made to the cultural heritage of this Republic. Here, as elsewhere, they have striven to keep alive their traditions and their unquenchable love of freedom; and in doing so they have contributed greatly to the lives of all Americans.

Congressional Record, Vol. 105, No. 59, p. 5620

HON. HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

OF MINNESOTA

Mr. President, today, March 25, 1958, marks the 40th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic.

When the Rada of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic proclaimed their land a free and independent state they recognized that this act of courage and daring was fated to invoke punitive and retaliatory action by the Soviets.

In 1921, just 3 years after these brave people established their new nation, the Soviets seized control, and, by the Pact of Riga, in 1921, divided the territory of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic between Poland and Russia. Even under this tyranny, the Byelorussian people have continued their fight for freedom in all possible ways in Poland and in the B. S. S. R., and the leaders in exile continue to be active. In spite of the fact that Moscow has employed every means of oppression, it is evident that the Soviets have not succeeded in eradicating the desires of these vialiant people for freedom. We are confident that they never will.

Congressional Record, Vol. 104, No. 48, p. 4624

HON. PAUL H. DOUGLAS

OF ILLINOIS

...It was during this historic epic that the Byelorussian nation officially declared its national independence on March 25, 1918.

This action was taken by the Rada, a provisional but representative body which had been established on December 5, 1917. It is significant to note in this connection that the Rada had representation of all the Byelorussian political parties, including the two Jewish parties, Poalej Syon and Bund; the Polish Socialist Party; the Russian Contitutional Democrats (Radets); and the Russian Socialist Revolutionist (Essers). The only votes cast against the declaration of independence which established the Byelorussian National Republic came from the Russian Constitutional Democrats and the Russian Socialist Revolutionists, who, though representing a very small minority of the population of the country, insisted upon a maintenance of the authority of the Russian Empire.

...Immediately thereafter the Red army under the comand of Commisar Trotsky, who had acted as Russian signatory to the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, invaded Byelorussia with the intention of destroying the newly independent government. From that date until March 18, 1921, Byelorussia was the theater of war between the Red army and the military forces of Poland. Thereafter the historic lands of Byelorussia were occupied by the Russian Communists, with the exception of that period during World War II when the armies of Hitler marched to the gates of Moscow and Stalingrad.

But during this period of 40 years, marked by war and foreign occupation, the Byelorussian people have not lost their hope, their faith in human freedom or their aspirations for national independence. The programs of mass deportation, economic depression, cultural spoliation

and oppression of individual liberties since carried on by the Russian Communists stand as an undeniable tribute to the Byelorussian people in their aspirations to be free and independent.

As we commemorate this 40th anniversary of Byelorussian national independence we remind the people of the world, including the Russian Communists, that the American people have not forgotten and shall not forget the heroic efforts of the people of Byelorussia to gain their rightful place among the free nations of the world.

It would be fitting on this historic occasion that the Voice of America reestablish a regular broadcasting program in the Byelorussian language, carrying the message of hope from the hearts of the American people that this once free and independent nation will soon be released from the chains of Communist imperialism...

...I would, therefore, appeal to the President of the United States to take such action as may be necessary to reinstate a regular Voice of America broadcast program to Byelorussia which has unfortunately been discontinued during the tenure of his administration. The hopes of freedom should surely be kept alive for the Byelorussians, as well as for the other captive peoples.

Congressional Record, Vol. 104, No. 58, p. A 3396

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRAYER

BY REV. VLADIMIR L. TARASEVITCH, ST. PROCOPIUS ABBEY, LISLE, ILL.
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON
ON MARCH 25, 1959.

O LORD, OUR GOD, WHO IN CREATING MAN TO YOUR IMAGE AND LIKENESS, HAVE ENDOWED HIM WITH CERTAIN INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS, MERCIFULLY GRANT THAT OUR LONG-SUFFERING BYELORUSSIAN BROTHERS MAY SOON ENJOY ALL THESE RIGHTS, SO THAT THEY MAY WORSHIP YOU, THEIR CREATOR AND REDEEMER, IN PEACE AND FREEDOM. HELP THEM TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO YOU. LIGHTEN THEIR HEAVY BURDEN. ENKINDLE IN THEM THE HOPE OF DELIVERANCE. SAVE, O LORD, YOUR PEOPLE AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE.

BLESS, O LORD, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THE BASTION OF FREEDOM AND HOPE OF THE OPPRESSED. INSPIRE ITS LEADERS TO PURSUE THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND JUSTICE WITH COURAGE. GRANT, O LORD, PEACE IN OUR DAYS. TO YOU WITH THE FATHER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT ALL HONOR AND GLORY. AMEN.

HON. FRANCIS E. DORN

OF NEW YORK

...The history of the struggle for independence by Byelorussian people was long, constant, sacrificial, dedicated and determined, marked with armed uprisings and reflected in most of the Byelorussian literature as well as being led and inspired by all of the national leaders and supported morally by many neighboring countries.

On March 25, 1918, the Byelorussian Rada assembled in Minsk declared an independent Byelorussian Democratic Republic, thus marking the end of occupation . . .

. . . The declaration of independence gave to every Byelorussian a special sacred meaning of freedom, a special respect and loyalty to all free nations seldom experienced by other peoples . . .

. . . I hope that Byelorussian Independence Day will be celebrated each year not only by Americans of Byelorussian descent but by all citizens and all men who value, respect and jealousy guard freedom.

Congressional Record, Vol. 105, No. 48, p. A 2598

HON. ROBERT H. MICHEL

OF ILLINOIS

Mr. Speaker, today is the 41st anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of Byelorussia, and since the Byelorussian people in their occupied homeland are forbidden to observe national holidays of special significance to them, the American citizens of Byelorussian descent are again joining with other Byelorussians in the free world in the commemoration of this most memorable day in the history of the Byelorussian people in order to keep alive the spirit of freedom of the Byelorussian people and to encourage them to further their resistance against the Communist rulers of their country . . .

. . . The Russian domination, however, has not destroyed the love of liberty that still burns in the hearts of the Byelorussian people. Until the present day they have shown signs of their disapproval of the Communist ideologies and the rule of the Kremlin despots, hoping that sooner or later the day will come again when the Russian Empire will fall apart and they will be able to restore their freedoms and political independence within the lawful boundaries of their ethnographical territory . . .

Congressonal Record, Vol. 105, No. 49, p. 4728

HON. PETER W. RODINO

OF NEW JERSEY

Mr. Speaker, Byelorussia's modern history is overshadowed by Russian history, because during most of that period the country had become part of Russia, and the Russians have tried to eradicate all Byelorussian traditions and national traits there. But the Byelorussian people, who have had a longer history as a nation than the Russians themselves, were never willing to forego and forget their distinct identity, and they have always wanted to regain their freedom and independence. They had that opportunity in 1918.

In that year, when the detested Czarist regime was no more, and the new Communist regime in Russia was still in its infancy, the Byelorussians regained their freedom and proclaimed the establishment of the Byelorussian National Republic on March 25 . . .

. . . Unfortunately that was not to be. Early in 1921, before Byelorussians had the chance to consolidate and strengthen their government, Soviet forces attacked and overran the country, and Byelorussia as an independent nation vanished. Since then, for more than four decades these liberty-loving and sturdy Byelorussians are living under the unrelenting rule of Communist Russians. But they have not give up their hope for freedom and independence. They still cherish that noble ideal,

and on this 41st anniversary of their independence day, I wish them strength and fortitude in their moral and physical struggle.

Congressional Record, Vol. 105, No. 49, p. A 2659

HON. ABRAHAM J. MULTER

OF NEW YORK

Mr. Speaker, the Byelorussians are one of the lesser known Slavic peoples.

This is partly because they have been intermingled with more numerous and powerful other Slavic peoples, and partly because they have been subjected to the oppressive rule of others. For centuries Russians have done all in their power to assimilate them, and have tried to represent them to the world as Russians. But history shows that the Byelorussians — the White Russians, or Ruthenians, as they are sometimes called — formed a distinct national group in their homeland, east of Poland and west of Moscow, long before the formation of the modern Russian State. Since that event, early in modern times, Byelorussia became part of the Russian Empire.

Czarist Russian rule did not eliminate the Byelorussians as an ethnic group. The more they were oppressed by their Russian masters, the more Byelorussians clung to their ethnic and national ideals, and longed for the day of their independence. This came about in 1918, when the Czarist regime was overthrown. On March 25 of that year the Byelorussian National Republic was proclaimed, with its capital in the historic city of Minsk. Soon it was recognized by the governments of many countries, and it looked as if the new state was to attain sovereignty in historic Byelorussia. Unfortunately the independence thus proclaimed did not last long. Russian Communists attacked and overran it, and in March 1921, Byelorussian independence vanished...

...On this 41st anniversary of their independence day, let us all hope for the freedom of Byelorussia and its liberty-loving people.

Congressional Record, Vol. 105, No. 49, p. A 2680

HON. EMILIO Q. DADDARIO

OF CONNECTICUT

Mr. Speaker, today, March 25, marks the 41st anniversary of the proclamation of the independence of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic. For this Russian state, as is true for many of her neighboring lands, this day will be a time of mixed emotions. There will be rejoicing that on this day in 1918, Byelorussia finally achieved independence after centuries of czarist oppression, but this joy will soon turn to sorrow because the Byelorussians realize that they have lost their freedom to a new form of Russian imperialism.

The world will witness two different forms of celebration on this day. The first will be a mocking farce directed by Russian Communists and staged in the streets of Minsk, the capital. The Communists will try to create the effect of an enthusiastic demonstration of patriotic loyalty to the Soviet Union, but they will not succeed for such sentiments do not prevail in Byelorussia. The second celebration, expressing the true Byelorussian spirit, will show the world that the Byelorussians are not content to exist as a Russian puppet state. It is paradoxical and tragically ironic that the Byelorussians are not free to celebrate their own independence day. They must muffle their true expressions and desires for national independence, and conform to the manner and theme of demonstration dictated by the Russian organizers who will lead their celebrations. Those Byelorussians who have sacrificed their homes in order to flee from oppression and live in free countries are urging us not to be fooled, but to let the world, especially Russia, know that free people everywhere share the hope that Byelorussia will again be a free and independent country.

Congressional Record, Vol. 105, No. 49, p. A 2695

HON. CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI

OF WISCONSIN

...The Byelorussian National Republic was established as a free and independent nation on March 25, 1918. The new nation quickly established consular and diplomatic relations with her neighbors. Although the period of independence was brief, definite advances were made in the social, economic, and cultural fields. The Republic eagerly demonstrated its desire to take its place amongst the free nations of the world. Unfortunately, the infant Republic was not able to resist for long the advance of the new Russian imperialism; and its independence, for which it had struggled so valiantly, was lost.

On January 1, 1919, the Communists established the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic. After a period of consolidation, the Communists initiated a policy of persecution and annihilation with the intent of eliminating all vestiges of Byelorussian nationalism. This policy went into full effect in 1928.

The extent of the terror, arrests, mass deportations, carnage, and deliberate genocide was incredible. It has been estimated that over 4½ million Byelorussians have been annihilated since the Soviets occupied the country. A determined effort was made to eradicate every bit of Byelorussians national feeling; for it was only through the propagation of Soviet communism and the imposition of Soviet culture that Byelorussia could be completely subjugated.

For 40 years the Byelorussian people have suffered under the totalitarian grip of ruthless Kremlin Communists. However, they have never voluntarily accepted communism, and their desire for freedom has

not been extinguished. As long as there is the hope of eventual independence, the spirit of liberty lives on.

Let us, on this 40th anniversary of Byelorussian independence, pay tribute to the devotion to freedom and justice which remains alive in the hearts of the Byelorussian people. May this intense desire for full national independence, and for free exercise of their right to self-determination, be realized in the near future.

Congressional Record, Vol. 104, No. 48, p. A 2796

HON. STEVEN B. DEROUNIAN
OF NEW YORK

Mr. Speaker, I wish to join in commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence by the Byelorussian National Republic.

Byelorussia, perhaps more widely known as White Russia, is a small but mighty force for freedom.

Having suffered the ravages of wars by invasions from all sides for centuries, on March 25, 1918, these people declared themselves a free and independent nation . . .

Today, 40 years since their declaration of independence proclaimed their rights and freedoms; proclaimed freedom of speech, press, meetings, strikes and organization, unconditoinal freedom of conscience, immunity of person, and residence for all the peoples and citizens of Byelorussia.

May they stand firm against the oppression of communism and may they one day again embrace the freedoms they knew in 1918.

Congressional Record, Vol. 104, No. 48, p. A 2825

HON. VICTOR L. ANFUSO
OF NEW YORK

. . . The Kremlin leaders are always the first to denounce colonialism and to pose as ardent champions of the oppressed and persecuted small nations. At the same time, Moscow has subjugated more small nations than all the colonial powers combined and certainly in more brutal ways. Byelorussia is a case in point. Ruthless suppression of its freedom, liquidation of its national independence, destruction of its culture and religion, the genocidal policies practiced against its people with untold losses of human lives, and severance of all contacts with the free world and with their kinsmen in America and elsewhere — these are some of the cruel achievements of the Soviet overlords of Byelorussia.

On this 40th anniversary of their independence it is important that the people of America declare their solidarity with the people of Byelorussia. We pledge ourselves not to forget them in their tragic plight, and we pray for their early liberation. We extend our greetings and our

wishes that they may live to see the early restoration of their nation to full independence and to a rightful place among the free nations of the world, but in a more peaceful and happier world.

Congressional Record, Vol. 104, No. 48, p. A 2828

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN

Mr. Speaker, one of the persistent themes of Soviet propaganda is that in the Soviet Union racial and ethnic groups enjoy perfect freedom to maintain and develop their distinct national cultures within the framework of the Soviet system. This clever propaganda pitch has deceived millions of people, but all informed peoples of the free world know it is a big hoax. We know that what the Soviet do is the exact opposite of what they say in this as in many other respects.

Not only the nationality groups in the Soviet Union, but even the Soviet satellite countries do not have the freedom to follow their national desires in cultural, artistic, and educational matters. They do not even contemplate, for fear of brutal reprisals by their Kremlin tyrants, doing anything that would arouse the ire of their humorless Communist overlords . . .

. . . Communist Russians, drained Byelorussian independence in a blood bath late in 1918 and wrought havoc in that fair and fertile country. They have imposed their rigid and inflexible tyranny over Byelorussians, and have turned the country into a large poor, prison house. Amid this misery and suffering prevailing there, it is encouraging to hear and know that the Byelorussians are carrying on their fight for freedom, and even stage open uprisings against their tyrannical overlords. On the 40th anniversary of the Byelorussian Independence Day we wish them courage and power, and ardently hope that someday and soon they will cast aside the unwanted foreign yoke and regain their freedom.

Congressional Record, Vol. 104, No. 48, p. A 2832

HON. ALVIN M. BENTLEY
OF MICHIGAN

. . . It is well known that the foreign policy of this administration includes the right of free and independent self-determination for all the captive peoples of Eastern Europe now behind the Iron Curtain. With this premise firmly in mind, I believ it is important to call attention to anniversaties such as this in order that the captive peoples may know that our Government and people have not forgotten their enslaved condition but, on the contrary, hope and expect that their day of liberation

will come soon. I congratulate the people of Byelorussian extraction in Detroit and throughout the country for their part in observing this memorable date.

Congressional Record, Vol. 104, No. 48, p. A 2837

HON. JOSEPH W. MARTIN
OF MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. Speaker, this date marks the 40th anniversary of the declaration of independence of Byelorussia.

Like many of its eastern European neighbors, this nation which proudly proclaimed its independence 40 years ago, is held captive by Soviet Russia. Its people are not free, as they would be, if they were governed by their own will and desires.

But the observance of this anniversary serves a useful purpose. It points out thef act that here is a people, one of numerous small nations which would throw off the yoke of Soviet despotism if they could.

The love of freedom and democracy still lives in the hearts of the men and women of Byelorussia. On this anniversary of their declaration of independence, it is appropriate for us to let them know that we in free America are thinking of them, that they have our sympathetic understanding and our moral support in their aspirations to be free. If they keep up their faith and courage, as I am sure they will, their dreams will yet be realized.

Congressional Record, Vol. 104, No. 49, p. A 2875

HON. LEONARD FARBSTEIN
OF NEW YORK

Mr. Speaker, March 25 marks the 40th anniversary of the proclamation of independence of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic, and under leave to extend my remarks, I extend the following greeting to the people of Byelorussia and their kinsmen in their continued fight for freedom from the yoke of Communist tyranny and oppression:

Every American, faithful to our tradition of freedom for all peoples, will sympathize with the aspirations of the Byelorussian people to achieve independence and self-government. Their cultural and historical contributions have greatly benefited the world. I join with other freedom loving peoples the world over in wishing you a return to full independence and sovereignty.

Congressional Record, Vol. 104, No. 49, p. A 2894

HON. JAMES ROOSEVELT
OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. Speaker, Byelorussians, or the White Russians, have lived in their historic homeland in northeastern Europe for at least 1,000 years, perhaps a great deal longer. Long before Russians had formed their independent state, Byelorussians had a sovereign state of their own. They enjoyed an independent existence during most of the Middle Ages and early in modern times. In the 18th century Byelorussians, and their country was annexed to the czar's empire...

...And in the First World War when the czarist regime collapsed, Byelorussians seized upon the opportunity and proclaimed their independence on March 25, 1918.

That epoch-making event in the Byelorussian history became a landmark, and to this day it is being celebrated by all liberty-loving Byelorussians as their national holiday. Even though the independence proclaimed 40 years ago did not even last a year, the undying hope it engendered still lives in the hearts of Byelorussians. They dream of a day when the detested Communist regime will be overthrown and they can once again breath the fresh air of freedom. I am glad to join those stou hearted Byelorussians in the celebration of their independence day, and add my hopes for the attainment of their national goal.

Congressional Record, Vol. 104, No. 49, p. A 2914

HON. HUGH J. ADDONIZIO
OF NEW JERSEY

Mr. Speaker, toward the end of World War I many nationality groups in Europe, who had suffered for centuries under oppressive alien rules, attained sovereign status by proclaiming their independence. That was one of the most welcome results of a terrible and destructive war. Subject nationalities of the Austrian-Hungarian and Russian empires threw off the detested alien yokes, and one by one, the Czechoslovaks, the Estonians, the Latvians, the Lithuanians, the Poles, the Ukrainians, and others joyfully declared their independence.

The Byelorussians did likewise. After the overthrow of the Czarist regime in the Russian revolution in 1917 the central government of Russia was put out of business, and anarchy was spreading in many parts of the country...

...They therefore seized upon the welcome chance provided by World War I, and proclaimed their independence on March 25, 1918. Then they formed their own democratic form of government in their historic capital city Minsk, and in the short time allotted to them, they began to rebuild their war-torn country...

...In December of that very year the bloody Bolsheviks were on the warpath; their Red Army overran Byelorussia, annexed it to the Soviet Union, and some 15 million Byelorussians became its helpless victims.

Since then, for almost 40 years, Byelorussians have been living under the oppressive yoke of their detested Communist tyrants...

...Fortunately, even under these most abominable and almost un-

bearable conditions, the liberty-loving Byelorussians still cling to many of their ideals of freedom and independence. They still sustain the undying hope that some day they will be able to shake off Communist tyranny and live in freedom in their beloved homeland. By joining in the celebration of their 40th Independence Day. I earnestly hope that before long it will be possible for these stouthearted Byelorussians to attain their simple but noble national goal.

Congressional Record, Vol. 104, No. 50, p. 5047

HON. ISIDORE DOLLINGER

OF NEW YORK

Mr. Speaker, Byelorussians are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the proclamation of the independence of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic. I am pleased to extend my greetings to them and to recall that great event in their history when they seized their opportunity to escape from Russian rule, under which they had suffered for 300 years.

These courageous and freedom loving people, after enjoying a thousand years of independent existence and their own sovereign state, were conquered by invading Russians and brought under Czarist rule. They never lost their national spirit or love of liberty and prayed for the day when they might again enjoy freedom in their homeland; hundreds of years of tyranny did not dim their courage or lessen their hopes. Although they were able to enjoy only 1 year of their new independence, having been forcibly brought under the Communists' oppression, they continue to hope that they will be able to throw off the yoke of Communist tyranny and find the freedom and sovereignty which have been denied them for so long, but which remain their dream and goal.

Americans, and freedom-loving peoples everywhere, join in hoping that day is not far off.

Congressional Record, Vol. 104, No. 50, p. A 2968

HON. VINCENT J. DELLAY

OF NEW JERSEY

Mr. Speaker, in commemorating the 40th anniversary of the proclamation of independence of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic, I bow my head in mixed sadness and shame. Deep sympathy for those who have restisted and have died in a seemingly hopeless fight, but gave their all in a superhuman struggle to keep the fluttering spark of freedom glowing, even if dimly, behind the Iron Curtain ...

As time passes such thoughts seem more expressive to the sacrifices made abroad in other lands rather than our own homeland, whose early history holds far more in common with our heroic and courageous freedom loving friends, than the craven phrases of "peaceful coexistence," that is becoming the chant that is music to the Soviet puppets for whom

we will forsake those whom we would say we are honoring today. I will try to lift my head by stating that maximum economic sanctions against Soviet Russia, Red China and all puppet satellite governments be imposed.

Let us join in positive action rather than annual public utterances of sympathy and inaction. Let those nations who call for sacrifices on the part of other less fortunate countries stand with us. Let us not hold up our heads just long enough to be heard for a brief moment. Let us hold it up in pride and keep it up with continued courage in action.

Congressional Record, Vol. 104, No. 52, p. 5226

HON. MICHAEL A. FEIGHAN

OF OHIO

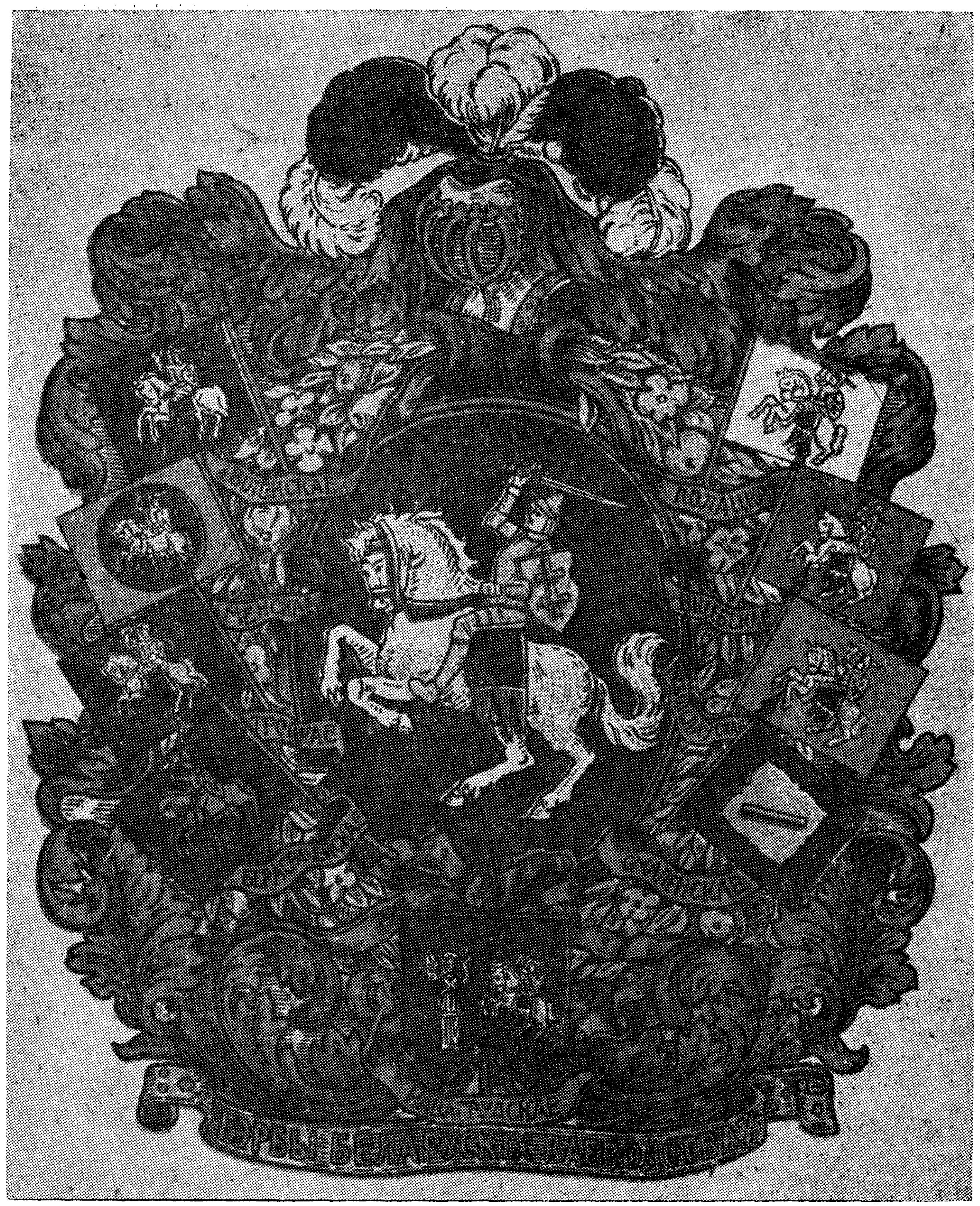
...It is an honor for me to join with you today in commemorating the 40th anniversary of the independence of the Byelorussian nation. On this occasion it is fitting that we recall the place of the Byelorussian nation in recent history. Altogether too little is known here in the United States about the Byelorussian nation and the age-long struggle of her people for independence and self-government.

While Byelorussia has been accorded full membership in the United Nations, an event which signifies the existence of a nation worthy of full representation in the council of nations, this much desired state of affairs does not, in fact, exist. Membership in the United Nations by Byelorussia is restricted to form, because in substance, those accredited Byelorussian people are, in reality, nothing more than mouthpieces for their Russian masters...

...On December 5, 1917, the first all Byelorussian Congress was held in Minsk. After 12 days of deliberation the Congress proclaimed the establishment of the Byelorussian National Republic. This national republic remained in being until December 10, 1918, when the Red Army invaded Byelorussia and destroyed the newly won independence of the Byelorussian people...

...And so as we today celebrate the 40th anniversary of Byelorussian national independence, we see the leaders of the free world confronted with the question as to whether or not they are willing to participate with the Russians in maintaining the prison of nations which has been built up and extended upon the ruins of the old Russian empire. This is a decision which rests squarely with the leaders of the free world. They have it within their power to reject this invitation to infamy or to be a party to the greatest injustice in the annals of history...

Congressional Record, Vol. 104, No. 52, p. A 3067



BYELORUSSIAN NATIONAL EMBLEM
surrounded by the emblems of nine old provinces of Byelorussia: Vilnia, Miensk, Troki, Bieraście, Navahradak, Polacak, Viciabsk, Mscislau and Smalensk.

BYELORUSSIA

THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE

In the United States, Byelorussia is known under several often confusing names: Byelorussia (Belorussia), Whiteruthenia (White Ruthenia), White Russia, Byeloruthenia, Kryvia. The term "Byelorussia" has been used most extensively since World War II, in as much as the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic is represented in the United Nations under this name.

For thousands of years, since early prehistoric times, Byelorussian people have inhabited the upper reaches of the three large East European rivers: Dniapro (the Dnepr), Dźvina (the Dvina), and Nioman (the Nemen). Byelorussian territory borders on Poland in the west, on Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia in the northwest, on Russia in the northeast and east and on the Ukraine in the south.

At the present time the territory of the distribution of Byelorussian language, the Byelorussian ethnographical territory, occupies about 180,000 square miles. Only a part of it, 80,000 square miles, is incorporated in the present Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic (B.S.S.R.). Most of the remaining Byelorussian ethnographic territory was annexed by Moscow and incorporated in the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (R.S.F.S.R.). Small parts are now within the boundaries of present Poland and Ukrainian, Lithuanian, and Latvian S.S.R.

Today approximately 18 million people inhabit the entire Byelorussian ethnographic territory, out of which, according to the census of 1959, only 8,060,000 live within the boundaries of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic. The capital of Byelorussia, Miensk (Minsk), has a population of 509,000 (1959). Other cities of the Byelorussian ethnographic territory with populations over 100,000 are: Vilnia (Vilna) — 235,000; Bransk (Bryansk) — 206,000; Homiel (Gomel) — 166,000; Viciabsk (Vitebsk) — 148,000; Smalensk (Smolensk) — 146,000; Mahileu (Mogilev) — 121,000; Biełastok (Białystok) — 100,000.

The principal crops of Byelorussia are grain, potatoes, and flax. Dairy cattle and hogs are bred. There are rich timber resources. Important industries in the national economy are textile, leather, wood and building materials. The manufacture of heavy trucks, tractors and machinery, especially agriculture machinery, today forms an important part not only of the economy of B.S.S.R., but of all U.S.S.R. and its exports. Natural resources include phosphates, ceramic materials, and rich deposits of peat which are widely used as a source of energy. Newly discovered and in exploitation already are very rich deposits of salt (Homiel district) and also coal (Smalensk district). Oil was found in 1957 in the Mazyr district.

Byelorussia is located on the historicaly vital economic and cultural crossroads between West and East, and South and North of Europe. Its network of rivers, canals, railroads, highways and airlines forms an important ling in the trade and transportation system connecting East, Central, and West Europe, and the Baltic sea with the Black sea.

The present Byelorussians evolved from the four ancient slavic tribes: Kryvichy, Dryhvichy, Radzimichy and Sieviaranie. Linguistically Byelorussians belong to the slavic group. As to the religious beliefs, about 75% of the population of Byelorussia belongs to the Eastern Orthodox Church, about 20% are Catholics, and rest (5%) are Protestants, Jews and others.

Culturally for centuries Byelorussian people have lived within the sphere of Western European civilization. Early in the history, and till fifteenth century, were Byzanthine the dominating cultural influences. In contrast to Russia and Ukraina, Byelorussia was never conquered by the Mongols and was never under the Tartar yoke. For centuries Byelorussian people have been known for political, religious and national tolerance and have demonstrated a constant tendency toward democratic forms of social and political life.

The written history of the Byelorussian people dates from the tenth century. The important political, cultural and economic centers, the independent duchies of Połacak (Polotsk), Smalensk (Smolensk), and Turau (Turov) were well-known then. Since the fourteennth century all Byelorussian lands have been united within the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, which culturally, politically and numerically has been dominated by Byelorussians.

For centuries the Byelorussian language has been the official language of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The famous codex of law of Grand Duchy, Litouski Statut (three editions 1529, 1566, 1588) was written in Old-Byelorussian. The Byelorussian doctor Francis Skaryna from Połacak was the first in all East Europe to translate and to print Bible in his native tongue (1517). The sixteenth century was "The Golden Age" of Byelorussian literature and culture. But the following seventeenth and eighteenth centuries brought a sharp decline in the development of the Byelorussian language and literature caused by the spreading polonization and denationalization of the Byelorussian leading gentry. This came at this time as a result of dynastic union of Grand Duchy of Lithuania with the Kingdom of Poland.

At the end of eighteenth century, after centuries of bitter warfare, the expanding despotic Russian empire succeeded finaly in annexating the Byelorussian lands. Moscow immediately subjected the newly occupied territory to a forcible administrative and economic integration and russification. The russification became especially extensified around the middle of the nineteenth century. The Byelorussian Orthodox Church immediately after the Russian conquest was subordinated to the Russian Orthodox Church and ruthlessly russified. In 1839 the Byelorussian Greek-Catholic Church was dissolved and the believers were forced to

join the Russian Orthodox Church. The Roman-Catholic Church also endured permanent supression and persecution. In 1840 the Czarist russian governement prohibited the use of the old Byelorussian laws (Litouski Statut) in the courts and introduced the Russian legal code. The same year, on the Czar's personal order, it was forbidden to mention of the very name of Byelorussia in the official government documents. Later, in 1859, printing in Byelorussian was declared illegal. This law was in force until 1905.

Economically under Russian administration, Byelorussia was soon brought to the status of the poorest among all the lands conquered by Moscow with practically no industry and no economical future. This caused the migration of Byelorussians to the other parts of Russian empire. At the end of nineteenth century mass emigration to the United States of America, to Canada and other countries began, and continued until World War I.

Moscow's policies of national supression, russification and colonial economical exploitation met a constant passive and active resistance from the Byelorussian people. In 1862 the rebel leader Kastuś Kalinouski began to print illegally the Byelorussian newspaper "Mužyckaja Prauda" (The Peasants Truth), later led the resurection against Moscow and in 1864, died on the Russian gallows for freedom of his people.

Despite Russian suppressions and persecutions the Byelorussian national rebirth and political liberation movement has grown steady stronger, especially since the beginning of the twentieth century, when the right for printing in Byelorussian was reinstated and the leading Byelorussian newspaper "Naša Niva" (Our Soil) appeared in 1906. Around the newspaper were soon grouped all prominent Byelorussian poets, writers, politicians as Janka Kupała, Jakub Kołas, Maksim Bahdanovič, Maksim Harecki, Ivan Łuckievič, Anton Łuckievič, Źmitrok Biadula, Aleś Harun, Jadvihin S., Alojza Paškevič, Kanstancyja Bujła, Vaclau Łastouski, Alaksandra Ułasau and many others. The city Vilnia (Vilna) was the main center of Byelorussian national rebirth and Byelorussian political and cultural activity.

During the World War I the Byelorussians endeavored to exploit the weakening of Russian regime to liberate Byelorussia from Moscow's rule and to establish their own independent state. An All-Byelorussian Congress met in December 1917 in the capital Miensk for this purpose. Delegates from all parts of Byelorussia, 1,872 in number, started organizing their own democratic state and free national life. However the Russian Communist regime, which took the place of the Russian Czarists, did everything in its power to prevent the All-Byelorussian Congress from accomplishing its purpose. When other measures failed, in the end of December 1917 they used concentrated armed forces to disperse the Congress and to stop the formation of an independent Byelorussian Republic.

Despite the military superiority of the Russian Communists, the Executive Council of the All-Byelorussian Congress, the Rada, continued

to act vigorously. In February 21st, 1918 Miensk was liberated from the Bolsheviks by Byelorussian fighters under the command of Kastuś Jezavitau. This same day the Rada, issued the First Contitutional Act, which announced the establishment of a Byelorussian state authority and the formation of the government of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic.

Despite the later occupation of Minsk by the advancing German army of end of February 1918, the Executive Council continued the organization of Byelorussian statehood. On the 9th of March 1918 the Rada in its Second Contitutional Act proclaimed the main constitutional principles of the social and political order of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic. Within the boundaries of the Republic freedom of speech,



Byelorussians gathering in front of the building of the Rada of All-Byelorussian Congress in Minsk on February 20, 1918 after the liberation of the Capital from Russian-Communist occupation.
"Varta" No. 1, Miensk 1918.

press, meetings, strikes and organizations were guaranteed. Unconditional freedom of conscience and the immunity of person and his residence were warranted. A maximum of 8-hour work day was set. Within the boundaries of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic the right to national and personal autonomy for all peoples of Byelorussia on the basis of a general, direct, equal, secret and proportional election law, regardless of sex, nationality and religion was proclaimed. For the ratification and securing of these basic democratic laws of the people and for the establishment of the permanent political authorities of the Republic, general elections were planned in the near future.

Finally in March 25th 1918, by the Third Constitutional Act, the independence of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic (Biełaruskaja Narodnaja Respublika — BNR) was proclaimed in the following words: "... We, The Rada of Byelorussian Democratic Republic, are liberating our country from the last vestige of state dependency ... From now on, the Byelorussian Democratic Republic is proclaimed a free and independent state..." (See page 7).

This was this declaration of Byelorussian Independence, which is now commemorated on March 25th every year by Byelorussians all over the world. To counteract the fact of the formation and existence of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic, Communist Moscow now had to establish its own "independent" Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic the creation of which was announced nine months later, January 1st, 1919, in Smalensk. An uneven struggle ensued. The Byelorussian people were not in a position to defend their freedom successfully from the aggression of much stronger neighbors. The pact of Riga in 1921 divided the territory of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic between Russia and Poland. On a part of the Byelorussian ethnographical territory annexed by Moscow, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic (B.S.S.R.) was now established. The rest, the large areas of Smalensk, Bransk and Pskou districts, was incorporated into Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (R.S.F.S.R.).

The fight of the Byelorussian people for their freedom did not cease with this partition of the Byelorussian territory. Simultaneously it continued in all possible ways in Poland and in the Byelorussian S.S.R. through the years between the World Wars, during the World War II and after.

At the same time the Presidium of the Rada (Council) of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic was active in exile under the leadership of it president Piotra Krečeuski (who died in 1928) and later Vasil Zacharka, after whose death in 1943, the post of the president of the Rada was put in the hands of Mr. Mikoła Abramchyk. With the support of Byelorussian political emigration and Byelorussians of the homeland, the Rada of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic (Rada Biełaruskaj Narodnaj Respubliki — B.N.R.) continues to lead through the post war years, the continuous struggle for the liberation of the Byelorussian people from the yoke of red Russian imperialism.

The political creature of communist Moscow, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, today formally appears to be an "independent" state. It is even a charter member of the United Nations. In fact the Byelorussian people experience in their "own" state today permanent national oppression, extensive russification, rude economic slavery and colonial ex-

ploitation. All higher administrative posts in the Republic and hundreds thousands of lesser position as a rule are occupied by the Russians sent by Moscow from Russia. A systematic large-scale genocidal destruction of the Byelorussian people by means of mass deportations to concentration camps and forcible resettlements in far districts of Soviet Empire is pursued constantly.

Large liquidations and mass deportations to concentration camps of Byelorussian farmers, workers and intelligentsia were organized by red Moscow in the years 1930, 1933, 1936-37, 1939-41 and immediately after World War II. Similar genocidal depopulation of Byelorussia continued after Stalin's death under the dictatorship of Khrushchev. Mass deportations and forcible resettlement of Byelorussians, especially of Byelorussian youth, have been executed yearly on the initiative and order of Khrushchev since 1954. Yearly hundreds of thousands of Byelorussian youth, boys and girls, are torn away from their native country, from their parents and their homes and deported to hard slave labor in Siberian mines, factories, hydroelectric projects, in the exploitation of forests, in the cultivation of virgin lands.

As a result of Moscow's genocidal extermination policy in Byelorussia the population of Byelorussian S.S.R., as soviet census of 1959 reveals, shows a deficit of 5,800,000 for the time 1939-1959 based on the rate of natural population increase under normal conditions. Only a part of this high deficit in the population of Byelorussian S.S.R. in the past 20 years, around 2,000,000, is due to the casualties of World War II the rest 3,800,000 is the direct or indirect horrible result of the planned permanent genocidal policies of the red Moscow imperialism in Byelorussia.

By it brutal genocidal extermination policy in Byelorussia, Moscow strives to break the national strength and permanent resistance of the Byelorussian people and so subdue all hope for liberation and freedom. However, ceaseless attacks by the party officials and Communist press on "Byelorussian nationalism" in B. S. S. R. prove that Soviet Russia will not succed in stifling the desire of the Byelorussian people for their national and individual freedom now, just as Czarist Russia did not succeed throught the past centuries.

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